

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 18, 2014  
MAG Offices, Ironwood Room  
302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Michael LeVault, Youngtown, Chair	#Mayor Gail Barney, Queen Creek
Mayor W.J. “Jim” Lane, Scottsdale, Vice Chair	Mayor Jackie Meck, City of Buckeye
*Mayor Greg Stanton, Treasurer	Mayor Lana Mook, El Mirage

\* Not present

# Participated by video or telephone conference call

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chair LeVault at 12:09 p.m. Mayor Barney joined the meeting via teleconference. Chair LeVault welcomed Mayor Meck and Mayor Mitchell as new members to this committee.

2. Call to the Audience

Chair LeVault stated that, according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out the public comment cards. He stated that there is a three-minute time limit. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for items that are not on the agenda that are within the jurisdiction of MAG, or non-action agenda items that are on the agenda for discussion or information only. Chair LeVault noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the June 16, 2014 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Mayor Lane moved to approve the June 16, 2014 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) Vice Chair Appointment

Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, stated that as of July 20, 2014, the position of Vice Chair for the Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC), held by Chris Hillman, City of Surprise, became vacant. On June 25, 2014, MAG sent a notice to the Management Committee, POPTAC, and Intergovernmental Representatives to solicit letters of interest for the POPTAC Vice Chair position. Two letters were received requesting

consideration for the Vice Chair position from Shawn Kreuzwiesner, Engineering Planning Manager, City of Peoria and Joshua Wright, Town Manager, Town of Wickenburg. This item was on the agenda for approval of the Vice Chair appointment.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee. Mayor Mook stated that traditionally this position has been held by a town or city manager and asked why would they want to make a change. Ms. McClafferty stated that historically, a city or town manager has held this position, but that it is open to anyone on the committee. Chair LeVault added that a town or city manager in the Chair and Vice Chair position gives a direct tie in back to the Management Committee. Mr. Smith stated that staff could be more clear in future requests for consideration letters that in the past, these positions have been held by a manager. Mayor Lane asked if this needs to be a specific policy change or do we want to continue to have this open. Mayor Meck stated that he felt that by stating that this position has been traditionally held by a manager in future letters of interests would be sufficient. Mayor Lane added that instead of using the word “traditionally” that instead use the word “preferred”. The committee members agreed.

Mayor Meck motioned to approve Joshua Wright, Town of Wickenburg, as MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee Vice Chair. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. MAG Transportation Safety Committee Vice Chair Appointment

Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, stated that the position of Vice Chair for the Transportation Safety Committee held by Chris Lemka, City of Glendale, became vacant after Mr. Lemka resigned from the City of Glendale. Mr. Lemka is now employed with the City of Buckeye and represents the City on the Transportation Safety Committee. On July 1, 2014, MAG staff sent a notice to the Management Committee, the Transportation Safety Committee and the Intergovernmental Representatives to solicit letters of interest for the Transportation Safety Committee Vice Chair. Ms. McClafferty stated that two letters were received requesting consideration for the Vice Chair position from Dana Chamberlin, Traffic Engineer, City of Avondale and Chris Lemka, Principal Traffic Engineer, City of Buckeye. This item was on the agenda for approval of the Vice Chair appointment.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Mook motioned to approve Dana Chamberlin, City of Avondale, as MAG Transportation Safety Committee Vice Chair. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Appointment of the MAG Economic Development Committee Chair Position

Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, stated that at the June meeting, the Regional Council approved the MAG officers and executive committee members. She noted that the

composition of the EDC includes the MAG officers, the immediate past chair of the Regional Council, and the TPC chair and vice chair. Due to the immediate past chair of the Regional Council no longer being a current member of the Council, the EDC Chair position is vacant. Ms. McClafferty added that on July 8, 2014, MAG staff sent a notice to the Regional Council members, the Management Committee, and the Intergovernmental Representatives to solicit letters of interest. One letter was received requesting consideration for the EDC Chair position from Mayor Lewis, Town of Gilbert. She stated that the Executive Committee is requested to recommend approval of the Economic Development Committee Chair position.

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Mitchell motioned to recommend approval of Mayor Lewis, Town of Gilbert, as the MAG Economic Development Committee Chair. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Appointments of the MAG Economic Development Committee Member Agency Positions

Denise McClafferty, Regional Program Manager, stated that in September 2013, the MAG Regional Council approved increasing the composition of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) to include eighteen MAG member agency positions that have one-year terms with possible reappointment by recommendation of the Executive Committee and approval of the MAG Regional Council. Due to the prescribed seats, such as the Transportation Policy Committee Chair and Vice Chair, appointments of the EDC member agency positions occurred at the Regional Council meeting in June. On July 8, 2014, a memorandum was sent to the MAG Regional Council members soliciting letters of interest for the member agency positions on the EDC. Letters were received from all previous MAG member agency members, as well as three new letters of interest from Councilman Michael Farrar, Town of Carefree; Mayor Alex Finter, City of Mesa; and Mayor Kenneth Weise, City of Avondale. The Executive Committee was requested to recommend for approval the EDC member agency positions.

Mr. Smith added that due to the positions on other committees, some members have dedicated seats, however, all other seats are available for possible reappointment or new appointment for a one year term. Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee. Mayor Barney asked if Mayor Finter was recommended for appointment, could he continue on the committee after his term as mayor was up in September. Ms. McClafferty stated that he would still be able to continue as a member because he would still be an elected official.

Mayor Mitchell motioned to recommend Mayor Finter, City of Mesa, for the East Valley seat and Mayor Weise, City of Avondale for the West Valley seat. Mayor Lane seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lane motioned to recommend approval of the appointments of the EDC member agency positions. Mayor Mitchell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Proposed Consultant Practicum Project with the Thunderbird School of Global Management

Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services and Special Projects Manager, discussed a proposed practicum project with the Thunderbird School of Global Management. The focus of the project would be to engage experienced older adults in the Greater Phoenix global economy. She explained that every community has residents who have valuable experience and who could make important contributions. She asked what is the strategy for finding and engaging these older adults and what is the value of their contributions to the economy? She noted that we don't necessarily know the answers to these questions today, but that we do know that every community will see a significant increase in the numbers of people aged 65 years and older. Ms. St. Peter added that in general, people in this age group have more education and experience than any other age group and that we are facing a skills gap, which is causing us to lose business and ground in the global economy as a result. The solution may be found within the experienced residents living in our communities today.

Ms. St. Peter stated that The Greater Phoenix Age-Friendly Network has been approaching this work from more of a human services perspective and is working with local governments, nonprofit agencies, and places of worship to build community capacity. Their goal has been to leverage the talents of older adults to build stronger communities. This work continues and is expanding statewide. Ms. St. Peter added that staff is proposing to partner with this committee to consider this work from an economic development perspective. Questions to be asked include what is the impact of seasoned workers in the global economy here in Greater Phoenix?; How can we compete more successfully for export and trade opportunities by better leveraging our experienced workers?; What kind of work environment will keep older adults in the workforce?; and how do we facilitate the transfer of knowledge to younger workers?

Ms. St. Peter added that MAG can explore the answers to these questions by working with a team of Thunderbird students who can analyze the human capital impact of continuing older adults in high skilled employment such as STEM jobs. The students can help MAG develop a better understanding of our region's competitive advantages and disadvantages. She added that working with the team, we can quantify the contributions older adults make to the economy as a source of skilled human capital and purchasing power.

Ms. St. Peter stated that the proposed deliverables for this project include delivering an analysis of data to determine the range of skills existing among Arizona's population aged 65 years plus; strategies to keep this population engaged in the workforce as part/full time employees, mentors, or volunteers; strategies to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from seasoned workers to younger generations; and the corresponding impact on the availability of skilled human capital, their purchasing power, and the economy.

Ms. St. Peter noted that the ability of the region to leverage the time and talents of older adults can play a pivotal role in the region's ability to sustain a thriving global economy based on exports and skilled human capital. The region's asset of retired workers may have a significant impact on the overall economic vitality if effectively identified and engaged. She added that the

MAG Economic Development Committee heard this item at their August meeting and voted to recommend proceeding with the Thunderbird Practicum project in the amount of \$2,500 and that this item was for action to recommend proceeding with the study.

Chair LeVault thanked Ms. St. Peter and asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

Mayor Mook asked which companies are expressing interest and would this study include vocational areas. Ms. St. Peter stated that part of the study would be to find out those answers. Mayor Lane added that he applauds this effort but also expressed concern that in a down economy has she received any push back on the fact that older adults are staying employed longer. Ms. St. Peter stated that by facilitating the transfer of knowledge from one generation to another will allow opportunities for everyone.

Mr. Smith added that without even realizing this, the transfer of knowledge is happening at MAG. He explained how MAG has a part-time associate who is a master in modeling and is now teaching other MAG employees. He provided another example of a recent City of Tempe retiree who is an expert on traffic synchronization. MAG has hired this person as an associate and this person is now working part-time and teaching the younger engineers how to solve their synchronization issues in their cities. Mr. Smith suggested that offering a Master Class in certain STEM fields at local universities could be a draw for some of the industries that want to come here.

Chair LeVault noted that this is a subtle way of utilizing a great resource that has been sitting idle. He added that as a country, not making that connection from our seasoned citizens back to the younger generation is a great missing link. He added that seasoned citizens of today are very different from the seasoned citizens from 20 years ago, that today they want to age in place and remain vital and active. Mr. Smith added that before the project is launched, staff will be meeting with stakeholders to make sure the right questions are being asked.

Mayor Lane motioned to approve proceeding with the Thunderbird Practicum project in the amount of \$2,500. Mayor Meck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Representation by Providers of Public Transportation on MPO Boards

Nathan Pryor, Government Relations Manager, stated a new requirement under the federal transportation law, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), requires transit representation on the governing bodies of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), such as MAG. He noted that this item was heard for information and discussion at the August MAG Management Committee meeting. Mr. Pryor explained the various options for the transit representative position on the MAG Regional Council. Option 1A would include a representative chosen from the four municipalities that operate transit (Glendale, Peoria, Phoenix and Scottsdale), Regional Public Transportation Authority Board (RPTA), and the Metro Light Rail Board. The rotation would include a total of six positions. He explained that

Option 1B is the same except that the RPTA Board and the Valley Metro Rail Board would be consolidated into one. The rotation would include a total of five rather than six positions. Option 2 would rotate the MAG Regional Council transit representative among the RPTA Board officers. This option would limit the MAG transit representative to one of the three elected officials who serve as one of three officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer) of the RPTA Board. Option 3 includes the elected official from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Designated Recipient that sits on the RPTA Board would serve as the transit representative to the MAG Regional Council. The City of Phoenix is the FTA Designated Recipient for the MAG region. He added that one of the provisions is very explicit in that this transit representative is a standalone seat

Chair LeVault asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee. Mayor Mook added that she was on RPTA for three years and she believes she was the last mayor to serve on that board. Mayor Lane requested that the pros and cons be listed for the options and bring them to the next September Regional Council meeting. Mr. Smith explained that Option 3 is the simplest solution and Option 2 is the second simplest. He noted that Option 1A and 1B means you are putting in other transit operators and this gets more complicated.

Mr. Smith explained that when this was being discussed at the Management Committee meeting, the Town of Florence committee member explained that there is transit operator in Coolidge that provides service to Florence, but Coolidge is not a member of the Regional Council. Mayor Lane asked what role does this additional position play? Mr. Smith stated that member would have one vote on transit related matters. Mr. Pryor stated that the discussion of these options will be held throughout August, with action on a recommended option, with any associated by-laws changes, be brought forward for action during September, in order to comply with the October 1, 2014 implementation date.

Chair LeVault requested that staff provide a list of pros and cons of each preferred option at the next Regional Council meeting.

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair LeVault asked if there were any requests for future agendas items. There were none.

11. Comments from the Committee

Chair LeVault asked if there were any comments from the committee. Denise McClafferty, MAG Regional Program Manager, announced that MAG is hosting two sessions at the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Conference on August 20 and 21. One session will be on the I-11/CANAMEX corridors as it relates to economic development and the other will be on Arizona-Sonora Binational Megaregion session with a very impressive panel of mayors and presenters. Immediately following the Megaregion session, a press conference will be held for the signing of an agreement to continue working together with the Sonoran's and include them in the Annual League Conference. On that same day, there will be a Mega Region Council

meeting and immediately following that will be the MPO/COG Directors meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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Chair

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Secretary